

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 6-11, 15-24, 26-34 and 38 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims to read as follows. Additions are underlined, deletions are in ~~strikeout~~ text.

1 – 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A water ride attraction as in Claim 438, wherein the flowing body of water is a sheet flow of water.

13. (Currently Amended) A water ride attraction as in Claim 438, wherein the planar portion of the riding surface is substantially horizontal.

14. (Withdrawn) A water ride attraction as in Claim 13, wherein the horizontal portion is positioned immediately downstream of the upstream downwardly inclined portion and immediately upstream of the upwardly inclined portion.

15-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A water ride attraction as in Claim 438, wherein the water flow has a sub-equidyne flow area in which fluid drag forces on a rider are greater than gravitational forces, a supra-equidyne flow area in which fluid drag forces on a rider are less than gravitational forces, and an equilibrium flow area between the sub-equidyne and supra-equidyne flow areas, drag forces on the rider in the equilibrium flow area being substantially balanced by gravitational forces, wherein by selective control of the rider's body and/or a ride vehicle the rider can perform oscillating water skimming maneuvers whereby the rider oscillates between the sub-equidyne, equilibrium and supra-equidyne flow areas.

26-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) A water ride attraction as in Claim 436, wherein the riding surface has a lateral edge, and at least a portion of the water flowing over the riding surface at or adjacent the convex ridge portion flows over the lateral edge.

36. (Previously Presented) A water ride attraction as in Claim 35, wherein the riding surface is configured so that a rider can ride the flowing body of water over the lateral edge.

37. (Currently Amended) A water ride attraction as in Claim 36 additionally comprising an exiting area adjacent the lateral edge.

38-42. (Cancelled)

Please add the following new claims:

43. (New) A water ride attraction, comprising:

a substantially stationary riding surface having a front and a back;

the riding surface comprising an elongate substantially planar portion, followed from front to back by a concave upwardly inclined portion, an upwardly convex ridge portion, and a downwardly-inclined downstream transition portion;

an exiting area having a drain and an exit surface, the exit surface being contiguous with the downstream transition portion;

a water collection basin generally below the exiting area and communicating with the drain;

a pump delivering a supercritical flowing body of water to the front of the riding surface, the body of water flowing in a direction generally from the front toward the back of the riding surface;

the flowing body of water delivered with sufficient velocity and volume so that the flowing body of water flows over the planar portion, on to and over the upwardly inclined portion, on to and over the convex ridge portion and on to and over the downstream transition portion while generally conforming to the contours of the respective portions and while remaining supercritical;

the flowing body of water flowing on to the exit surface in the exiting area after flowing over the downstream transition portion, the body of water ceasing supercritical flow in the exiting area; and

the drain sized and configured to evacuate water from the exit surface sufficient so that non-supercritical water in the exit area does not submerge the supercritical flowing body of water on the downstream transition portion;

wherein the supercritical flowing body of water supports a rider riding thereon over the planar portion, upwardly inclined portion, upwardly convex ridge portion and downstream transition portion; and

wherein the rider comes to rest in the exiting area in which the body of water ceases supercritical flow.

44. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 43, wherein the exit surface is generally horizontal.

45. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 43, wherein the drain is incorporated into the exit surface as a grate or panel perforated with holes sized to drain water, and wherein the exit surface is configured to support exiting riders upon the drain.

46. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 45, wherein the exit surface and associated drain are configured so that the flowing body of water is drained through the grate or holes in the exit surface as the water flows over the exit surface until the exit surface is bled dry.

47. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 46, wherein the exit surface is generally horizontal.

48. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 43, wherein the planar portion of the riding surface is horizontal.

49. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 25, wherein a vertical rise of the riding surface is defined from a lowest point of the sub-equidyne flow area to a top-most point of the supra-equidyne flow area, and wherein a length of the sub-equidyne flow area is at least about four times the vertical rise.

50. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 49, wherein the substantially planar portion of the riding surface is within the sub-equidyne flow area, and the planar portion is horizontal.

51. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 50, wherein the horizontal planar portion is sufficiently long to accommodate oscillating maneuvers of the rider thereon.

52. (New) A water ride attraction as in Claim 37, wherein the riding surface comprises a downwardly-inclined transition portion adjacent the lateral edge, and the exit area adjacent the lateral edge is downstream of the transition portion.

53. (New) A method of entertaining water ride participants, comprising:
providing a substantially stationary riding surface having a front and a back, the riding surface comprising an elongate substantially planar portion, followed from front to back by a concave upwardly inclined portion, an upwardly convex ridge portion, and a downwardly-inclined downstream transition portion;

providing an exiting area having a drain and an exit surface, the exit surface being contiguous with the downstream transition portion;

providing a water collection basin generally below the exiting area and communicating with the drain;

delivering a supercritical flowing body of water to the front of the riding surface so that the body of water flows in a direction generally from the front toward the back of the riding surface;

delivering the flowing body of water with sufficient velocity and volume so that the flowing body of water flows over the planar portion, on to and over the upwardly inclined portion, on to and over the convex ridge portion and on to and over the downstream transition portion while generally conforming to the contours of the respective portions and while remaining supercritical, and so that the flowing body of water flows on to the exit surface in the exiting area after flowing over the downstream transition portion, and the body of water ceases supercritical flow in the exiting area; and

evacuating water from the exit surface through the drain with sufficient speed so that non-supercritical water in the exit area does not submerge the supercritical flowing body of water on the downstream transition portion, and thus there is no pooling of water in the downstream transition portion;

wherein the supercritical flowing body of water supports a ride participant riding thereon over the planar portion, upwardly inclined portion, upwardly convex ridge portion and downstream transition portion, and the ride participant ceases being supported by the body of water in the exiting area in which the body of water ceases supercritical flow.

54. (New) A method as in Claim 53, wherein the drain is formed through the exit surface, and comprising delivering the flowing body of water so that the body of water flows in a first direction across the exit surface, and additionally comprising evacuating water through the drain with sufficient speed so that the body of water is evacuated through the drain before flowing completely across the exit surface.